Analytical tests of Hydrogenated vegetable oils

2651. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven leading brands of hydrogenated vegetable oils (H.V.O.) subjected to analytical tests by the Government recognised laboratory at Lucknow, were found to contain excessive concentrations of nickel, which is considered to be highly injurious to health;

(b) if so, what specific brands have so far been subjected to test and found to contain such high concentrations of nickel; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto by way of protecting the consumer from the harmful effects of such H.V.Os?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Government is aware about the Press report. Pursuant to this, some brands were got analysed by the Ministry of Health. They are seized with the matter and have asked the Indian Council of Medical Research to study the toxicity of nickel and fix limits if necessary. Meanwhile, this Ministry has advised the Vanaspati Manufacturers to adhere to post refining of hydrogenated vegetable oils so as to minimise the nickel content in the final product.

Export of Tea to Erstwhile USSR.

2652. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the export of tea to the erstwhile USSR during 1988-89 and 89-90 with quantum and rate per kg; and

(b) the quantum of tea exported to the present Russia during 1990-91 and 91-92 with average rate per kg.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Export of tea to erstwhile USSR during 1988-89 to 1991-92 together with unit value realisation have been as follows:—

Year	Qty (M.Kgs)	Unit FOB export price Rs/Kg
1988-89	90.40	29.77
1989-90	121.87	44.64
1990-91	112.85	52.93
1991-92 (Estimated)	102.53	52.68

Exports to Russian Federation have commenced only in April 1992.

Distribution of Fertilizers by MMTC

2653. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) propose to diversify into domestic distribution of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) MMTC proposes to diversify into domestic distribution of fertilizers through existing channels of distribution besides, if necessary, through its own distribution channel in selected Districts depending upon the level of consumption, administrative convenience, logistics for supply of imported/indigenous material etc.